

look forward to working with the committee to make sure this happens in a timely fashion.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT), a distinguished member of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, although I think this should be a totally open rule, as has been the tradition for dealing with this bill each year, I do think that the House should understand that the bill that is being brought to the House today is not controversial in the sense that it was agreed to unanimously within the committee. I would add to the remarks of my friend from Florida that this is, once again, a truly non-partisan and bipartisan effort. It is appropriate that the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence should operate that way, both as the committee that provides oversight for intelligence activities and a committee that is, as the gentlewoman from California (Ms. HARMAN) points out, a consumer of intelligence product.

No doubt there will be a great deal of controversy to follow, a great deal of political discussion to follow in coming weeks and months about the intelligence that led up to the fighting and into the fighting in Iraq. In fact, I think this will be very good for the committee because it is an excellent case study of what intelligence should be, what intelligence should not be, how it can be used, and how it can be misused. I applaud the decision of the chairman and the ranking member to investigate the disturbing matter thoroughly, and I have no doubt that we will be able to investigate it thoroughly.

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I applaud their decision to allow Members of the House to read the large volume of material that the Director of Central Intelligence has provided to the Congress. And our committee intends to issue a written report on its findings as promptly as possible.

We have only begun to examine in detail the testimony, the statements, the published intelligence relating to Iraq's weapons programs and terrorist associations. It is early in our investigation, too early in the military's search within Iraq itself to come to any definitive conclusions or explanations of our failure so far to substantiate the prewar claims and expectations of what we would find there. But I have no doubt that the House will be satisfied with the thorough and critical look that the committee will take in this issue.

There is no question that there is a lot of ambiguous information to search through. There is no doubt that there have been some exaggerated claims at least, and lives and deaths have hung on these things. We must take a thorough look at it. We will and I think the

Members of the House will be satisfied with that look.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I just wanted to add one bit of remark with regard to some of the comment we have just heard which I thought was very helpful. We understand very clearly and the Intelligence Community understands very clearly that finding the weapons of mass destruction or what happened to them or whether there was faulty intelligence is a critical issue and that is indeed ongoing. As the gentleman from New Jersey just said, we are early in the game and we have literally thousands of pages for our staff and Members to work through.

There is one thing that has not been said very clearly yet that does need to be said. I think we all share the desire to make as much of this known as possible to the public. We want the public to understand how good intelligence is and how good it is not. Frankly, I want to do everything I can to make the American people aware as well as people overseas who might be watching what we have to say here, whether they are our friends or our enemies, that our intelligence is indeed formidable and when in fact we find a place where there is a gap in it, it will be repaired and fixed and that gap will no longer be there. I think that will be a comfort to everybody. That process is partially what this bill is about. But we are doing this as regard to the debate with the weapons of mass destruction in Iraq at a time when we desire transparency but we understand that transparency might include some people who are our enemies in the Iraq area where there is still a very dangerous and difficult operational climate as we are tragically reminded every day.

I would ask that we understand that this is not just a question of going back and reviewing material at our leisure trying to come to some Solomon decision about whether it was good or bad or where we can fix it. This is matching information that we had which was the best we had at the time as far as we know with what we are beginning to find as we are able to talk to people who are captured in Iraq and other areas who are terrorists or are associated with them, document exploitation, those types of things and match that up. This process is a process that the committee has taken on. We are not just doing the prewar analysis. We are doing the what is going on now and where is it going on a daily basis.

I hope Members can be assured, we will be in a continuous position to assess, both give a score card to the community and perhaps to come back to our colleagues here and say there are some other areas where we need to invest in the Intelligence Community be-

cause a small investment will yield a greater national security return before we are through. That is an ongoing process and charge of this committee and one we take seriously.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support of the rule.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 2417 and on the rule that was just passed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. UPTON). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2004

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 295 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 2417.

The Chair designates the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) as Chairman of the Committee of the Whole, and requests the gentleman from California (Mr. OSE) to assume the chair temporarily.

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IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 2417) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2004 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes, with Mr. OSE (Chairman pro tempore) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered as having been read the first time.

Under the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GOSS) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. HARMAN) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GOSS).

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I am very pleased to bring the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004 to the floor today. As always, this authorization is the culmination of both an intensive review of the intelligence budget request and the rigorous oversight of the Intelligence Community that the committee conducts on